



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1848 - HB 2561

February 14, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (013694): Enacts the *Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASPIC)*, to recognize audiologists' and speech-language pathologists' licensures from member states.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

**Increase State Revenue – \$10,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years/
Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$10,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years/
Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences had a revenue of \$72,123 in FY19-20, a revenue of \$84,257 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$551,632 on June 30, 2021.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the ASPIC, the compact has already been enacted into law in 15 states, which surpasses the 10 states that were necessary. The compact commission was scheduled to convene in January 2022; however, the process of implementing rules and bylaws is expected to last a year or longer.
- It is assumed that the compact will become fully operational in FY22-23 and full impacts will be incurred starting with that fiscal year.
- The proposed legislation states that each member state shall have two delegates to the ASPIC and that it shall provide for those delegates to attend all respective compact commission meetings, which occur at least annually. However, a delegate may participate in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.
- The commission will have the ability to hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, and prepare and recommend the budget once the compacts go into effect. The executive committee will meet at least annually and will set the fees that are due by each compact member state.

- The total cost of participating in the compact is unknown. However, based on information provided by the Department of Health regarding typical expenditures for participation in interstate compacts, the total recurring increase in state expenditures to the Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences is reasonably estimated to be \$10,000, beginning in FY22-23.
- Each professional individual seeking a license under the licensure compact is responsible for the payment of any fee associated with the completion of an FBI criminal background check; therefore, the state would not incur this cost.
- According to the proposed legislation, when an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes states of residence while still within member states, they must pay all applicable fees to that new state of residence when reapplying for a new home state license.
- The total increase in state revenue to the Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences is dependent upon multiple unknown variables, such as the specific fees imposed and the number of therapists that will seek and be granted a compact privilege. However, it is reasonable to assume that the Board will set the fees in an amount sufficient to offset the expenditures incurred for the state's participation in the compact. Therefore, the recurring increase in state revenue to the Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences is estimated to be approximately \$10,000, beginning in FY22-23.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences had a revenue of \$72,123 in FY19-20, a revenue of \$84,257 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$551,632 on June 30, 2021.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/cd